

Scriptures in distant lands. Over six hundred dollars were collected by the ladies in aid of the Parent Society. Altogether, the Reports of the Fredericton Society furnish ample materials for grateful reflection for the past, and for encouragement for the future.

### Letter from the Queen to the Nation.

The following letter from the Queen has been received by the Premier:—

“BUCKINGHAM PALACE, }  
Feb. 29, 1872. }

“The Queen is anxious, as on a previous occasion, to express publicly her own personal very deep sense of the reception she and her dear children met with on Tuesday, February 27, from millions of her subjects on her way to and from St. Paul’s.

“Words are too weak for the Queen to say how very deeply touched and gratified she has been by the immense enthusiasm and affection exhibited towards her dear son and herself, from the highest to the lowest, on the long progress through the capital, and she would earnestly wish to convey her warmest and most heartfelt thanks to the whole nation for this great demonstration of loyalty.

“The Queen, as well as her son and dear daughter-in-law, felt that the whole nation joined with them in thanking God for sparing the beloved Prince of Wales’ life.

“The remembrance of this day, and of the remarkable order maintained throughout, will for ever be affectionately cherished by the Queen and her family.”

### The “Committee on Habitual Drunkards”

A Select Committee sat to enquire into the best mode of treating habitual drunkards. Mr. Dalrymple presided. Mr. Smith, governor of Ripon prison, said he had been for many years acquainted with the habits of the criminal population; and his experience was that there was a large class who only worked a day or two in order to obtain money to drink. These people went about from town to town hawking small

wares, and they were confined for simple drunkenness and assault, but not larcenies. Experience taught him that short sentences were of no use whatever, and they must be retained for a longer period. As to their condition, he found them physically weak, and their mental capacity was below the mark. These drunken habits were frequently inherited from their parents. The committals of women were more numerous, and they were more inveterate offenders than the men. He suggested that further power be given to the justices in Petty Sessions in order that, after a given number of convictions, they might be at liberty to send an offender for a longer period to prison, or to some other convenient place, and with hard productive labour to enable him to earn something during his confinement. By doing this, society would not only be relieved of such persons for a time, but he believed that many would be thus cured of their drunken habits. Mr. Webster, of the Hull prison, gave corroborative evidence as to habitual drunkenness being on the increase, and this he attributed to the great number of newly-established public-houses and beer shops.

At the present day, when the subjects of Inebriate Asylums and Revised License Laws are under discussion, it is right that we should know what is being said and done elsewhere on the same subject.

### Induction of the Rev. Charles M. Grant to St. Mary’s Church, Partick.

The Glasgow Presbytery met on Thursday in St. Mary’s Church, Partick, for the purpose of inducting the Rev. Charles Martin Grant, late of Calcutta, to the charge of that church. The services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Dickie, of St. Lukes, who delivered an eloquent discourse from John xvii., 15. After the close of the services the brethren present gave the right hand of fellowship to the newly inducted clergyman, and were therein afterwards followed by the members of the congregation. Mr. John Morrison, jun., in name of the ladies of the congregation, then presented Mr. Grant with a bookcase, study table, and chair. Mr. Grant suitably replied, and the proceedings were brought to a close.